

10-2-2014

Central Washington University Basketball History

Central Washington University Athletics

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu_basketball

Recommended Citation

Central Washington University Athletics, "Central Washington University Basketball History" (2014). *Basketball*. Book 113.
http://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu_basketball/113

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Sports Statistics and Histories at ScholarWorks@CWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Basketball by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@CWU.

Leo & Dean Nicholson: 1,114 Wins

Central Washington University is in its second season as a member of NCAA Division II after a 60-year association with the NAIA.

The Wildcats qualified for the Division II national tournament in their inaugural NCAA campaign, earning the top seed and host role for the West regional. Central, the first school outside the state of California to host the regional since 1988, lost to Cal State - San Bernardino in the semifinals. The Coyotes then defeated Seattle Pacific in the regional final.

Prior to joining the NCAA, CWU was the winningest team in the history of the NAIA national tournament with 46 victories. Central also held NAIA records for most appearances (27) and consecutive appearances (9 between 1974 and 1982).

CWU has won a total 33 regular-season conference titles, including eight Tri-Normal, two WINCO, 12 Evergreen, six NAIA District 1, three PNWAC and one PacWest West Division crowns. The Wildcats won the NAIA District 1 post-season championship 24 times and three times won the PNWAC tournament. Last winter they earned their first PacWest title, defeating Hawaii Pacific 76-56 in the title game.

In 88 seasons, CWU teams have won 1,413 games and lost 748, a winning percentage of .654.

Leo Nicholson coached 505 victories in 33 seasons (1930-64) winning nine conference and one district title. Leo's son, Dean, won 609 games in 26 seasons (1965-90) winning 14 conference and 22 district championships. Dean, with 38 victories, is the winningest coach in the history of the NAIA national tournament.

The Nicholsons are the winningest father-son coaching combination in the history of collegiate basketball with 1,114 victories. The historic 1,000th win came on Dec. 12, 1986 when CWU defeated Northwest Nazarene 76-71 in a tournament at Whitworth College.

Dean joined his father in the exclusive 500 victory club on Jan. 6, 1987 when the Wildcats stopped Pacific Lutheran 70-53 at Nicholson Pavilion.

In district, regional and conference playoff competition, the 'Cats have won 75 games and lost 24. CWU won 19 straight district playoff games between 1976 and 1982.

CWU's best finish at the NAIA national tournament came in 1970 when it placed second and Dean Nicholson was selected the NAIA National Coach-of-the-Year. The 'Cats also finished third in 1967, 1969, 1987 and 1989 and fourth in 1985. CWU reached the quarterfinals of the NAIA national tournament in seven of its last nine appearances.

First team NAIA All-American honors have been won by four CWU players - Mel Cox in 1967, Paul Adams in 1970, Rich Hanson in 1973 and Jason Pepper in 1993. Twenty other players won second team, third team or honorable mention honors.

In 1987, Ron vanderSchaaf, who was named to the second team, was selected in the seventh round of the NBA draft by the Los Angeles Lakers.

CWU has had three coaches or administrators inducted into the NAIA Basketball Hall-of-Fame. Leo Nicholson was honored in 1964. Perry Mitchell, a long-time CWU administrator and former university president, was selected for his general contributions to NAIA sports. Dean Nicholson was inducted to the hall in 1986. Dean was also named to the NAIA's 50th anniversary all-star team in 1987.

Two Wildcat players have been tapped for special NAIA national tournament honors. Dave Benedict won the Charles Stevenson Hustle Award in 1967 and Dave Allen won the same award in 1970. The CWU team won the coveted James A.

Naismith - Emil S. Liston Sportsmanship award in the 1967 tournament and again in 1989.

92WU 139, LCSC 91 (3-1-79)

19, Lewis-Clark State (1-22-98)41, Lewis-Clark State (1-22-98)295 (1998)839 (1998)

Blocks - 200 (1989)

Steals - 430 (1990) 0-0

1906	1	1			1-0	0-1	0-0
1907	2	2	101	87	2-1	0-1	0-0
1908	7	0	306	140	7-0	0-0	0-0
1909	4	5					